

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Richmond, April 16, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 44. }

The following Acts having been duly approved by the President, are published for the information of all concerned :

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE PUNISHMENT OF SOLDIERS BY WHIPPING.

"The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, that from and after the passage of this act, it shall not be lawful for any court martial or military court to cause any soldier in the service of the Confederate States to be punished by whipping, or the infliction of stripes upon his person; and that all laws and customs contravening the provisions of this act, be and the same are hereby repealed.

"SEC. 2. That article twenty of the Articles of War be so amended as to read as follows: 'All officers and soldiers who have received pay, or have been duly enlisted in the service of the Confederate States, and shall be convicted of having deserted the same, shall suffer death or confinement in a penitentiary, with or without hard labor, for a period not less than one year or more than five, or such other punishment, not inconsistent with the provisions of this act, as the court martial or military court may determine.'" [Approved April 13, 1863.]

AN ACT TO EXEMPT CONTRACTORS FOR CARRYING THE MAILS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES AND THE DRIVERS OF POST COACHES AND HACKS FROM MILITARY SERVICE.

"The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the contractors for carrying the Mails of the Confederate States shall be exempt from the performance of military duty in the armies of the Confederate States, from and after the passage of this act, during the time they are such contractors: provided, that no more than one contractor shall be exempt on any one route, and that no more than one member of any firm of contractors shall be exempt, and no contractor on any route of less than ten miles in length, and on which the mail is carried on horse, shall be exempt under this act; and if any one or more members of any such firm be exempt, from age or other cause, from the performance of military duty, the other member or members of such firm shall not be

exempt by this act on account of being mail contractors: *and provided further*, that no person to whom a contract for carrying the mails may be transferred, with the consent of the post office department, after the passage of this act, shall be exempt from military service on that account.

"SEC. 2. That the drivers of post coaches and hacks for carrying the mails, on all routes where the weight of the mails requires that they should be carried in coaches or hacks, shall be exempt from military service in the armies of the Confederate States, from and after the passage of this act, so long as they continue to be employed as such drivers: *provided* the contractor by whom any such driver is employed shall take and subscribe an oath, to be furnished to the enrolling officer, that the weight of the mails on his route requires the use of coaches or hacks for their conveyance, and that he has not a greater number of drivers employed in his service than are indispensable to enable him to fulfill his contract for carrying the mails; and that he will not, while a contractor, employ a greater number of drivers than may be indispensably necessary for that purpose; and that he will give notice to the enrolling officer when any such driver ceases to be in his employment." [Approved April 14, 1863.]

By order.

S. COOPER,

Adjutant and Inspector General.